This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for screening for analytes comprising the steps of

a) ~~simultaneously applying a plurality of analytes to be screened onto at least one solid support such that the analytes remain isolated from one another~~ disposing a plurality of analytes to be screened within individually identifiable containers such that the analytes remain isolated from each other, wherein the individually identifiable containers are an array of capillary tubes each of which is identifiable according to its position within the array;

b) dispensing the analytes through the open ends of the capillary tubes onto at least one solid support in such a manner as to maintain the transferred contents of each container separate from those of each other container, wherein said analytes are simultaneously applied onto the at least one solid support;

[[b]]c) contacting said at least one analyte-carrying solid support with targets provided in a semi-solid or liquid medium, whereby said analytes are released from the at least one solid support to the targets; and

[[c]]d) measuring analyte-target interactions.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) [[A]]The method according to ~~Claim 1~~claim 1, wherein the solid support is of a substantially flat, disc-, rectangular- or square-shape.

6-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) [[A]]The method according to ~~Claim 1~~claim 1, wherein when each analyte is applied to the solid support it diffuses thereon so as to produce a concentration gradient.

10. (Currently amended) [[A]]The method according to ~~Claim 1~~claim 1, wherein the surface of the solid support onto which the analytes are applied is selected from polymers, ceramics, metals, cellulose and glass.

11-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) [[A]]The method according to ~~Claim 1~~claim 1, wherein the surface of the solid support is coated with a layer with molecules, [[a]] a layer with cells or a Langmuir-Blodgett film.

18. (Currently amended) [[A]]The method according to ~~Claim 1~~claim 1, wherein the solid support is [itself] an information carrier which carries information in electronic, magnetic or digitised form.

19-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) [[A]]The method according to ~~Claim 1~~claim 1 wherein steps a) and b) are carried out simultaneously.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) [[A]]The method according to ~~Claim 1~~claim 1, wherein each analyte is applied to [[a]] a rod or spherically shaped solid support.

27-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) [[A]]The method according to ~~Claim 1~~claim 1 wherein the analytes are ~~selected from~~ chemical compounds, antigens, antibodies, DNA-probes, cells and beads and liposomes carrying an analyte of interest.

30. (Currently amended) [[A]]The method according to ~~Claim 29~~claim 29, wherein the analytes, when applied to the solid support, are dissolved in an organic or inorganic solvent.

31. (Currently amended) [[A]]The method according to ~~Claim 30~~claim 30, wherein the solvent includes gelatin, polysaccharides ~~such as agar and agarose~~, natural and synthetic polymers ~~such as methylcellulose, polyacrylamide, hydrogels, gels containing N-isopropylacrylamide~~, [[and]]or thermo-sensitive polymers, such that each analyte following application to the solid support and drying liquefies in response to said chemical or physical parameter.

32. (Currently amended) [[A]]The method according to ~~Claim 1~~claim 1 wherein the analyte is a chemical compound.

33. (Currently amended) [[A]]The method according to ~~Claim 1~~claim 1 wherein said targets are selected from prokaryotic cells, eukaryotic cells, viruses, molecules, receptors, beads, and combinations thereof.

34. (Currently amended) [[A]]The method according to ~~Claim 33~~claim 33, wherein the targets are cells equipped with reporter functions.

35. (Currently amended) [[A]]The method according to ~~Claim 34~~claim 34, wherein said analyte target interactions are measurable by the effects of the analytes on the reporter functions of the cells.

36. (Currently amended) [[A]]The method according to ~~Claim 1~~claim 1 wherein said analyte-target interactions are measured using one or more of the following methods: microscopic, colorimetric, fluorometric, luminometric, densitometric, isotopic, and physical measurements.

37-68. (Cancelled)

69. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein the polysaccharide is agar or agarose.

70. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein the polymer is methylcellulose, polyacrylamide, hydrogels, or gels containing N-isopropylacrylamide.